MALACHI

FOR A BACKSLIDDEN PEOPLE

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- Malachi means “My Messenger”.
- There is no historical record of him, nor is any genealogy given.
- We do know that his name means “my messenger” and he does exactly that - delivering the message that God has given him.
- He prophesied about 100 years after the return of the Jews from Babylon to Jerusalem.
- The Book of Malachi is a prelude to the 400 years of prophetic silence broken finally by the words of the next prophet, John the Baptist.

Malachi 3:1 - “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, “Says the LORD of hosts.”

- **Chapters**: 4
- **Verses**: 55

OVERVIEW OF MALACHI

- The people of Judah who were exiled from the Promised Land in 605 BC, began returning from Babylon seventy years later.
- By the time of Malachi, they had been back in their land for more than a 100 years
- The city and the second Temple had been built, but the initial enthusiasm of the people had diminished.
- This led to rampant corruption among the priesthood and a spiritual lethargy among the people.
  - the people and priests had backslidden to the point of making unworthy offerings (Mal 1:7)
  - delinquent in their tithing (Mal 3:8),
- Because their hearts were not devoted to God, their families were not devoted to God.

OVERVIEW OF MALACHI

- Malachi came along at a time when the people were struggling to believe that God loved them (Malachi 1:2).
- The people focused on their unfortunate circumstances and refused to account for their own sinful deeds.
- Malachi presents God as a Father whose children do not return His love.
- Malachi rebuked the people for their neglect of the true worship of the Lord (Mal 1:6)
- He used **a question-and-answer method (23 questions in this book)** to probe into the problems of:
  - Hypocrisy • Infidelity • Mixed marriages • Divorce • False worship • Arrogance
- Malachi also called God's people to repentance (Mal 3:7).

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. God's Compassion for Israel, 1:1-5

A. His Compassion Declared, 1:1-2a

B. His Compassion Doubted, 1:2b

C. His Compassion Demonstrated, 1:3-5

II. God's Complaint Against Israel, 1:6-3:15

A. Cheating, 1:6-14

B. Unfaithfulness, 2:1-9

C. Spiritually Mixed Marriages, 2:10-12

D. Divorce, 2:13-16

E. Impiety and Impertinence, 2:17

F. Parenthesis: The Coming of John the Baptist, 3:1-6

G. Robbery, 3:7-12

H. Arrogance, 3:13-15

III. God's Condemnation of the People, 3:16-4:6

A. The Ungodly People, 3:16-18

B. The Nature of God's Judgment, 4:1-6